

Dictated on telephone by secretary to
Mr. William Borden -- Joint Con-
gressional Committee on Atomic Energy,
16 October 1951.

SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE

In the first month of its existence the Committee took
two steps:

1. It pressed for a strong United States intelligence effort
directed at the atomic energy activities of potential enemies; and

2. It brought unrelenting pressure in behalf of *all endeavors to*
secure info. which would enable the
~~project~~ *able to* notify the United States when any atomic test explosion
took place on the continents of Eurasia.

The intensity of the country's interest as to both phases has continued
at peak level throughout. The active intervention of a handful of
individuals, most of whom are Committee members, may well have
meant the difference between failure and success in becoming aware
of the two Soviet bomb tests thus far announced by the President. Had
these two tests passed unnoticed in the United States, the consequences
~~them~~ to ourselves could have verged upon the disastrous.

This nation's overall atomic energy intelligence program
encountered one notable defeat when, in its advance prediction as to
the date of Russia's first test, it missed the mark by a wide margin.
Although the important steps taken since that time to bolster the program
are to be commended, it is felt that in this field almost no effort can
be too great.